

## Short Communication

### A new combination in *Alphitonia* Endl. (Rhamnaceae)

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The new combination *Alphitonia pomaderroides* (Fenzl) A.R.Bean is made based on *Ziziphus pomaderroides* Fenzl. The type specimen of *Z. pomaderroides* Fenzl (**Fig. 1**) is clearly referable to the taxon currently called *Alphitonia obtusifolia* Braid. Therefore a new combination is required based on the earlier legitimate name that was overlooked by Braid (1925).

***Alphitonia pomaderroides* (Fenzl) A.R.Bean, comb. nov.**

*Ziziphus pomaderroides* Fenzl, *Enum. Pl. (Endlicher)* 20 (1837). **Type:** Cape Van Diemen [Queensland, Mornington Island], December 1802, *F. Bauer s.n.* (holo: W, photo at BRI).

*Alphitonia obtusifolia* Braid, *Bull. Misc. Info. Kew* 182 (1925). **Type:** “North Coast” [Queensland, Sweer’s Island], November 1802, *R. Brown s.n.* (holo: K), **syn. nov.**

**Additional selected specimens examined: Queensland.** COOK DISTRICT: 20 km NW of Mt Garnet on road to Lappa, Jan 1993, *Bean 5484 & Forster* (BRI, DNA, MEL); Mungana N.P., NW of Chillagoe, Jan 1993, *Bean 5584 & Forster* (BRI); 1.6 km from Rocky River crossing towards Chester River, Jul 1978, *Butler 271* (BRI, CANB, K, L); 8.2 km from Kennedy River on the Fairview to Kimba road, Apr 1980, *Clarkson 3185* (K, MO, QRS); Cape York, around tourist lodge, Nov 1984, *Clarkson 5672* (QRS); Cholmondelay Creek crossing, on Telegraph Line road, 11 km SW of Heathlands, Mar 1992, *Johnson 5137* (BRI, DNA, MEL, NSW); near granite gorge off Chewko road, near Mareeba, Apr 1990, *van der Werff 11509* (MO, QRS). BURKE DISTRICT: 6 km SW of Normanton, along the road to Magoura Station, Apr 1974, *Pullen 8847* (BRI, CANB); Sweers Island, 0.5 km S of Inscription Point, Nov 2002, *Thomas SW155 & Pedley* (BRI, DNA); Appel Channel, Mornington Island, Jun 1963, *Tindale & Aitken s.n.* (AD, BRI). **Northern Territory.** 7 km W of Borroloola, Jun 1977, *Must 1542* (BRI, CANB, DNA, K, L); Mt Young, Nathan River Station, Jan 1989, *Russell-Smith 6728 & Lucas* (BRI, DNA).

**Distribution and habitat:** *Alphitonia pomaderroides* is common in north Queensland, as far north as Heathlands on Cape York peninsula and south to near Croydon and Greenvale. It also occurs in the adjacent parts of the Northern Territory as far west as Nathan River Station. It inhabits eucalypt woodland on sandy to loamy soils. It is smaller than most other species in the genus, often flowering when less than 2 m high, but occasionally reaching 6 metres.

**Phenology:** Flowers are recorded between January and May. Fruits are recorded between April and November.

**Affinities:** *Alphitonia pomaderroides* is related to *A. excelsa* (Fenzl) Benth. The leaves of *A. pomaderroides* are broader, especially on young plants, and they frequently have a rusty tomentum, at least on the new growth, but often persisting on mature leaves. The apex of the leaves is frequently obtuse, but this can vary, and some plants may display a mixture of acute and obtuse leaves. The flowers and fruits are somewhat larger than in *A. excelsa*, but otherwise similar.

**Notes:** Bentham (1863) noted *Ziziphus pomaderroides* and considered it a form of *Alphitonia excelsa* restricted to the Carpentaria islands.

#### References

- BENTHAM, G. (1863). *Alphitonia. Flora Australiensis* 1: 414. L.Reeve & Co.: London.
- BRAID, K.W. (1925). A revision of the genus *Alphitonia*. *Bull. Misc. Info. Kew* 1925: 168–186.

#### Acknowledgement

Dr G.P.Guymer photographed the type of *Ziziphus pomaderroides* whilst Australian Botanical Liaison Officer.



**Fig. 1.** Holotype of *Ziziphus pomaderroides* Fenzl. at W.